

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /061 W
-----022218 281323Z /50

O R 281212Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 002
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: ACTION ON CENSURE MOTION ADVANCED,
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE MAY BE DECEMBER 31

REF: ANKARA 9307 (DTG 231225Z DEC 77)

1. SUMMARY: ON DEC. 27, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTED TO PLACE
CENSURE MOTION ON AGENDA. IN A MOVE STRONGLY CRITICIZED BY THE
JUSTICE PARTY (JP), NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER KARAKAS (REPUBLICAN
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PEOPLE'S PARTY - RPP) SET DEBATE ON MERITS OF MOTION FOR
DEC. 29, WITH EFFECT OF ADVANCING SCHEDULE FOR ACTION BY ABOUT
FIVE DAYS AND RAISING POSSIBILITY THAT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WILL
TAKE PLACE DEC. 31. ANOTHER JP DEPUTY RESIGNED FROM HIS
PART ON DEC. 27, BUT LATER IN THE DAY HE WITHDREW HIS
RESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DEC. 27 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS MET UNDER TIGHT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON PLACING RPP'S CENSURE MOTION ON THE ASSEMBLY AGENDA. BEFORE THE MEETING, THE COALITION PARTNERS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO VOTE FOR CONSIDERING THE MEASURE SO A DEBATE ON THE CHARGES COULD BE HELD. (HURRIYET REPORTS THAT THE COALITION PARTNERS WANTED TO AVOID A TEST OF STRENGTH AND TO KEEP THE NUMBER OF VOTES THE COALITION CAN CONTROL FROM BECOMING EVIDENT.) OF 433 DEPUTIES IN ATTENDANCE DURING ROLL CALL VOTE, 424 VOTED FOR THE MEASURE EIGHT AGAINST (ALL JP), AND ONE ABSTAINED. FIFTEEN DEPUTIES WERE ABSENT: 11 FROM THE JP; ONE EACH FROM THE RPP, NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP); AND ONE OF THE JP DEFECTORS, CEMALETTIN INKAYA (THE OTHER 11 EX-JP DEPUTIES WERE REPORTEDLY PRESENT AND VOTING).

3. DEBATE BEFORE THE VOTE BROUGHT OUT BITTER ATTACKS AND MUD-SLINGING. THE RPP SPOKESMAN ELABORATED ON THE CRITICISMS IN THE CENSURE MOTION. A JP SOKESMAN WELCOMED A SHOWDOWN AND CRITICIZED WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS ECEVIT'S GREED FOR POWER AND THE INTRIGUES HATCHED IN ISTANBUL WHERE "ECEVIT'S GREEK BROTHERS PLOTTED INTRIGUES CENTURIES AGO". PRIMIN DEMIREL ALSO SPOKE AND SAID, "IF THE CURRENT PROCESS LEADS TO A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE, THEN THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL BEGIN." DEMIREL WELCOMED A DEBATE ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VOTERS HAVE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPTED THE CLAIMS OF THE RPP, AS IS EVIDENT FROM THE FACT THAT THE COALITION PARTNERS RECEIVED MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE DEC. 11 LOCAL ELECTIONS.

4. AFTER THE VOTE, BECAUSE AN RPP BOYCOTT HAD PREVENTED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FROM ESTABLISHING RULES FOR THE CENSURE MOTION PROCEEDINGS, SPEAKER KARAKAS (RPP) SET DEBATES ON THE CENSURE MOTION FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 29 (ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION SPECIFIES THAT SUCH A MOTION "MAY NOT BE DEBATED BEFORE THE LAPSE OF TWO DAYS" AFTER IT IS PLACED ON THE AGENDA). HE SAID THAT THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WILL TENTATIVELY TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, DEC. 31. KAKARAS' RULING PRODUCED AN OUTCRY FROM JP, NSP AND NAP DEPUTIES WHO ARGUED THAT THE DEBATES ON THE CENSURE MOTION COULD NOT LEGALLY TAKE PLACE BEFORE FRIDAY, DEC. 30, AND THAT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE SHOULD BE JAN. 2. KARAKAS, WHO ALSO LIMITED EACH SPEAKER TO A 20-MINUTE PRESENTATION DURING THE DEC. 29 DEBATES, WAS ACCUSED OF LACK-ING IMPARTIALITY, AND THE COALITON PARTNERS HAVE LODGED A PROTEST.

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5. ON DEC. 27, ANOTHER JP DEPUTY, MEHMET CATALBAS OF GUMUSHANE, SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION BUT LATER IN TH DAY CHANGED HIS MIND. HE REPORTEDLY HAD CONTACTS DURING THE DAY WITH RPP MEMBERS, INCLUDING ECEVIT, AND WITH JP DEPUTIES AS WELL. IN THE EVENING, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT CATALBAS HAD WITHDRAWN HIS RESIGNATION, SAYING HE HAD SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.

6. COMMENT: RULING BY SPEAKER KARAKAS ADVANCING SCHEDULE FOR ACTION ON CENSURE MOTION SEEMS OPEN TO CHALLENGE, BUT AT THIS POINT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE COALITION HAS ENOUGH SUPPORT
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TO SUCCEED IN SUCH A CHALLENGE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE COALITION PARTIES MIGHT RESORT TO DELAYING TACTICS TO

PROLONG THE DEBATE. OTHERWISE, THE OPPOSITION SEEMSTO STAND
A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING IN ITS EFFORT TO
UNSEAT THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE NEW YEAR.
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